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Council says it will adopt phone box to save book exchange

LIBRARY MAY GET TO STAY



Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

BOOKLOVERS remain on tenterhooks as the future of Banbury's 'Phone Box Library' still hangs in the balance.

Last summer a Banbury resident built shelves and placed books in the classic red Gilbert Scott phone box outside St John's Church, South Bar Street.

But after BT last week said it wanted to halt the practice due to health and safety concerns, a campaign to save the phone box library resulted in the communications firm agreeing it could be "adopted" by the town council for £1 instead. But the kiosk, it said, could either retain a working phone or be used as a library – but not both.

Local firm Hawkins Steel volunteered to build new shelving.

However, at the time of going to print

the council was at loggerheads with BT over whether the phone could remain operational if the library was allowed to go ahead. Last year, 1,093 calls were made from the box, the last functioning one of its kind in town.

Banbury Town Council chairman Kieran Mallon said: "We have made an offer to adopt it only if it remains fully functioning."

He added that the founder of the box supported the council in its assertion, but BT was "adamant" that dual purpose would not be possible.

The saga began last Tuesday when a notice appeared in the box from BT.

Citing health and safety concerns, it had originally demanded the removal of books, shelving and associated signs.

The announcement stunned library users and the wider community.

Sir Tony Baldry MP also waded in, saying: "I am somewhat at a loss to understand how a few books in a telephone booth can be a health and safety issue."

Faced with a snowballing online campaign, BT then issued a statement on Thursday defending its position.

Alongside such choice literary puns as "we shouldn't read too much into this", it said that a complaint over wobbly shelving could not be ignored.

After Banbury Town Council confirmed that it was prepared to adopt the box, Tim Tarby-Donald, who runs the Visit Banbury website, said: "It's fantastic that the library will be there, and a lovely positive thing that the people of Banbury have achieved."

More than 2,400 boxes have been adopted nationwide and house projects such as defibrillators and an ale house.

The #SaveOurPhoneBoxLibrary Twitter campaign gained national coverage.

Residents continue to hope a compromise can be reached.



Tim Tarby-Donald, who runs the Visit Banbury website and the inside of the 'library' phone box



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Eyes on the prize

BANBURY: AN OPTOMETRY practice is in the running for the title of 'Family Optician of the Year' in the upcoming national Optician Awards. Walford and Round Opticians in High Street is one of five businesses across the UK shortlisted.

The final ceremony will be held on April 18 in Birmingham.

Co-director Jonathan Walford said: "Several of our clients have openly said to us that they chose us to look after their eyes because we also cared for their parents and perhaps even grandparents before them."

Supporting wildlife

CHERWELL: THE district council has announced housing provided through its Build! project will be extended to the animal kingdom.

Bird and bat boxes will be fixed to the outside of properties, close to the roof and guttering, to provide secure and suitable nesting facilities for wildlife.

It is hoped the scheme, the result of a partnership between the district council and the Cherwell Swifts Conservation Project, will retain or increase numbers of birds and bats in the area.

The Build! project provides affordable housing opportunities mainly in the Banbury and Bicester area.

Call to blood donors

BANBURY: A BLOOD donor session will be held at The Peoples Church, The Church Centre, Horsefair on Monday.

Sessions will be held by NHS Blood and Transplant from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and 4.15pm to 7.30pm.

Appointments can be made on 0300 123 2323 or via blood.co.uk.



Celebrating being awarded 'Best Chippy Chips in Oxfordshire' are staff at Grimsbury Fish Bar in Banbury, left to right, Andreas Gavriel, George Xiourouppas, Soulla Gavriel and Fotoula Xiourouppas

Fish and chip shop staff prove they're truly worth their salt

GRIMSBURY Fish Bar has won the Choice Chip Awards competition to land the title of 'Best Chippy Chips' in Oxfordshire.

Customers voted to help the Middleton Road chippy, which will

celebrate its 30th year in business this April, net the trophy.

Owner George Xiourouppas, 50, said: "I was surprised. But the customers have always been good to us – it's like a family here. We thank

them all for taking the time to vote."

Asked about the enduring popularity of the fish bar, he said: "The secret is to give good portions and good value for money, as well as cooking good quality fresh fish.

"You have to look after each and every piece of fish and be on top of things at all times.

"And be nice to the customers." Originally from Cyprus, he arrived in Banbury in 1978.

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the pub from here

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Students scoop four fundraising prizes in contest

Banbury and Bicester team raise more than £3k for the Katharine House Hospice

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

BUSINESS students from Banbury and Bicester College have won four awards for their efforts in a fundraising competition.

They collectively raised £3,142.98 for Katharine House Hospice, receiving trophies at the Kärcher Accumulator Challenge awards on January 29.

A range of schools and local businesses took part in the competition, including Kington High School, Bloxham School, Brethertons LLP Solicitors and Fairway Fish Bar.

Each team received a £50 start-up fund from Kärcher UK to turn into as much money as possible for the Adderbury-based hospice.

The Banbury and Bicester College team drew funding from events including a dress sale, fashion show, FIFA



Jane Miles, chief executive at Katharine House

football tournament and family portraits session.

They were given three awards for creative and effective fundraising as well as for overall winner.

Steph McNeil, the college's lead business teacher, said: "I cannot express how proud

I am of the students, not only in what they achieved for Katharine House Hospice, but in how professional and confident they have been."

The overall total raised by all groups was £11,305.69.

Jane Miles, chief executive at Katharine House, said the money raised could cover the cost of 84 days of clinical nurse specialist care, nine months of bringing patients to the day hospice, 18 months of music therapy or the cost of providing flowers to the hospice for seven years.

Head of fundraising Helen Mariner said: "The reality of the voluntary sector and all charities is that costs are rising.

"The number of patients is likely to rise, and we need to do all we can to secure the hospice for the future. We are lucky to have incredible support from the local community.

"An amount like this makes a huge difference."

Man taken to hospital with broken leg after light aircraft crashes on runway

A MAN in his 70s was airlifted to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital after a light aircraft crash in Shotteswell, near Banbury.

The plane, believed to have come from Coventry airport, crashed on the runway at Shotteswell Farm airfield shortly before midday.

Rapid response vehicles from South Central Ambulance Service and the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance were sent to the scene.

An ambulance and rapid response vehicle from West Midlands Ambulance Service also arrived at 12:10pm.

A West Midlands Ambulance

Service spokeswoman said: "On arrival at the scene crews found a small aircraft that had crashed into a field.

"One man believed to be in his 70s was treated for a suspected fractured leg. He was fully immobilised and given pain relief at the scene before being airlifted to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for further assessment and treatment."

The other man in the plane, believed to be in his 60s, sustained minor injuries and was assessed by ambulance crews.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch was informed and was carrying out initial enquiries.



The remains of the crashed aircraft on the runway at Shotteswell Farm airfield

'Allegations may be lies'

Defence in abuse trial says girls may enjoy attention

Joe Nimmo
joe.nimmo@nqo.com

A BARRISTER has suggested girls who made sexual abuse allegations against seven young men from Banbury might have done it for attention.

On Monday, a jury sitting at Oxford Crown Court heard a closing speech from Clare Dowse, who is defending 21-year-old Takudzwa Hova,

from Broughton Road, Banbury.

Hova is on trial for allegedly sexually exploiting eight teenage girls as part of a group called "BB or B2" between 2011 and 2013.

Prosecution barrister, Stuart Trimmer QC, said the gang of men had subjected their victims to a cycle of abuse, culminating in some cases in rape.

The defendants are Ahmed Hassan-Sule, 20, of Glyndebourne Gardens; Said Saleh, 20, of Orchard Way; Mohamed Saleh, 21, of Orchard Way; Hova, of

Broughton Road; Kagiso Manase, 26, of Warwick Road; Alexandru Nae, 19, of Broome Way; and a 17-year-old who cannot be named for legal reasons.

They deny a total of 26 charges.

These include 19 counts of sexual activity with a child, two counts of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, three counts of rape and two counts of sexual assault.

On Monday Miss Dowse told the jury: "My client says he never had sex with any of those girls.

"He claims that such incidents that they have described simply did not happen.

"How frankly easy it is for allegations like that to be made with absolutely nothing to corroborate them at all.

"Some people don't need a motive to make something up. "They don't need a motive to lie.

"You may think that girls with the sort of chaotic lives you have heard about in this case might be enjoying all the attention from police and social services."

The trial continues.

A sweet treat for area's jobseekers

BANBURY: CLOSE to 80 roles are being created at Mondel z International's Banbury factory following a £33m investment last November.

Positions such as operators, operational technicians and electrical and mechanical technicians have been created by the company, which is the second largest in the global coffee market and also makes chocolate and more.

Time for planting

BANBURY: VOLUNTEERS are needed to continue work on a new orchard in Browning Road Park next weekend.

Banbury Community Action Group intends to plant at least 40 apple trees at the site, including some rare varieties.

When finished, people will be able to pick the apples and attend events.

All are welcome to join in from 11am to 3pm on Sunday. For details, email banburycag@gmail.com

Reviewing abuse

OXON: A SERIOUS case review into child sexual exploitation in the county will be published on Tuesday.

The independent investigation into Operation Bullfinch was ordered by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board in 2013 and has been delayed several times.

Six girls aged between 11 and 15 were found to have been groomed, abused and raped by a gang of seven men in Oxford from 2004 to 2011.

In May 2013 the abusers were jailed for a total of 95 years.

The review was an attempt to discover why the abuse was not stopped earlier, when officials were told of it in 2006.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Deal may put F1 team on the grid

BANBURY: The former Marussia Formula 1 team could return to racing after securing a debt deal.

The team, now under its original name Manor, has reached an agreement where control of the company will be passed back to its directors, allowing it to leave administration.

Marussia collapsed after last October's Russian Grand Prix £31m in debt.

Joint administrator Geoff Rowley, of FRP Advisory, said: "With new investment and a continuity of the respected management, the business has the ideal platform from which it can accelerate the operational rebuilding already under way to get the team back racing."

M40 slips close

OXON: Annual repair works will close several slip roads on to the M40 overnight for three months.

The Highways Agency has said it will carry out maintenance at junctions 10, Cherwell Valley Services, and 11, for Banbury, from March 2 to May 31.

During the works, which will run from 10pm to 6am on weekdays and 10pm to 7am on weekends, slip roads at the junctions will close.

The closures are to allow inspections and maintenance to be carried out, the agency said.

Closures and diversions would be signposted.

Market reshuffle aims to appeal to more shoppers

The new-look space will still host all the same stalls while also offering up more parking

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

RESTRUCTURING Banbury Market could be the secret to the "dwindling" attraction's survival, it is hoped.

Moving three traders' stalls will mean the nearby car park can now stay open on trading days, which may boost local businesses as well as the market itself.

The bi-weekly market is set to be shifted to Cornhill, at the top end of Market Place, next month.

This will lead to a more compact set-up, which is it hoped will improve atmosphere and footfall.

Councillor Tony Iltott said that in consultations with 50 businesses in and around the area, about 68 per cent had agreed that the car park being open on Saturday would be better for trade.

He said: "It had started to look very straggly, with big gaps between the stalls."

"Banbury Town councillors of both political persuasions were united in favour. We can revert to the old look if need be."

Owner of the Cornish Pasty and Tea Shop in Market Place, Malcolm Dibb said: "As a business we thought it would be quite a good idea. Opening up the car park might help trade as more people will be able to park."

"But the market is certainly not as significant as it used to be. It's dwindled and dwindled."

E.G. Skett & Co, which runs the market on behalf of the council, said: "Skepps Quality Events would like to reassure Banbury market customers that the repositioning will in no way mean a reduction in the size."

"The market will be held on the pedestrian area of Cornhill utilising the further pedestrian footfall areas which have now been made available and will offer the same stalls."

• Young entrepreneurs from schools and colleges are setting up shop at Banbury Market this weekend.

Around 150 students aged 15 to 18 are taking part in the North Oxfordshire branch of Young Enterprise project.

Through the scheme pupils set up and run their own businesses.

This year's Banbury Trade Fair will be open 9am to 5pm on Saturday.

Each team will sell their own wares including crafted accessories.

There will also be awards on the day for the best trade stand, best product and best customer service.

Mayor of Banbury, Councillor Sean Woodcock will visit from 2pm.



Market Place in Banbury, which is due to be rearranged



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Supporter thanks

BANBURY: A FUNDRAISING group has thanked the community after raising thousands of pounds for a Banbury-based charity.

Last year the Dogs for the Disabled Banbury and District Supporter Group raised more than £21,500 for the charity, which works with assistance dogs.

The funds were raised through community events.

Community fundraising manager at the Banbury headquarters, Stephanie Lawless, said: "As always we would like to thank all the group members for their hard work."

"Nationwide our Supporter Groups raised over £170,000 during 2014, and we're extremely grateful to them all."

The money will go towards helping the charity to continue its work to help people with physical disabilities or autism.

It costs £12,000 to support a dog from birth to fully trained assistance dog, or £20,000 for ongoing funding of the dog.

The Dogs for the Disabled Banbury and District Supporter Group was formed in 2010 and has since raised nearly £90,000.

The charity works across the UK, but is based at the Banbury centre in Blacklocks Hill.

Calling all actors

BANBURY: THE Banbury Cross Players are on the hunt for fresh talent to star in an upcoming play. Three women and one man are needed for a production of *The Canary Cage*, by Diane Raffle.

The only requirement is that one of the actresses should be aged between 20 and 40. The one-act production will be entered into the 2015 Lighthorne Drama Festival in early June.

Auditions will be held tomorrow at 8pm off Castle Street. Those interested should contact Michele Lothian on 01295 720517.

Emergency poetry is on hand for residents to raise mental health awareness

POETRY on prescription was available for shoppers in Banbury as part of a nationwide mental health awareness event.

'Emergency Poet' Deborah Alma was recently on hand outside the town hall to brighten up people's day with a few boosting words.

Ms Alma, who has been handing out poems for three years, handed out poetry on prescription to those needing a pick-me-up from a fully-fitted 1990s ambulance.

The event was arranged by anti-loneliness charity the Archway Foundation and

formed part of Time to Talk Day, a nationwide drive to tackle the stigma around mental illness by encouraging open discussion and debate.

Ms Alma said: "It's intimate without being intrusive, so quite a good match with the Archway Foundation."

"It was a good spot for us to set up and the ambulance looked great parked outside the town hall."

"People always really love it."

Some of those arriving for 'consultations' even returned to the ambulance later in the day with poems that they had written themselves.



Deborah Alma and the emergency poet ambulance parked in Banbury

A little sheet of history

Surprise discovery during work at codebreakers' HQ

Alex Wynick
awynick@nqo.com

SECOND World War documents named after an Oxfordshire town have been discovered for the first time during renovations at the former wartime code-breaking HQ, Bletchley Park.

Banbury sheets, so called because the stationery was printed in the town, were developed by

mathematician Alan Turing in 1940 to help break Nazi messages.

Codebreakers would punch holes in the papers to represent different cipher messages and place the sheets on top of each other on a light box.

If two holes aligned and light shone through then the codebreakers could work out the different rotor settings in the Enigma machine, a German device that encoded messages.

Curator Gillian Mason said: "These are the actual documents used by codebreakers, and in terms of the codebreaking process they are pivotal."

"I can just see these people bea-

vering away. There is a lot of pencil and crayon activity."

The sheets should have all been destroyed under wartime security rules, but Mr Turing and his colleagues seem to have used the spare sheets to help insulate Hut 6 at the Buckinghamshire wartime codebreaking centre.

During the war, Hut 6 had poor heating and no toilets or insulation.

Discovered in September 2013 as part of an £8m refurbishment, these are the only surviving Banbury sheets. They were frozen to prevent further decay, before being cleaned and repaired.

They will go on display at Bletch-

ley Park next month.

Chief executive of the Bletchley Park Trust Iain Standen said: "Discovering these pieces of code-breaking ephemera is incredibly exciting and provides yet more insight into how the codebreakers worked. The fact that these papers were used to block draughty holes in the primitive hut walls reminds us of the rudimentary conditions under which these extraordinary people were working."

Mr Turing and his work has recently been depicted in the Oscar-nominated film *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch as the famous war-time codebreaker.

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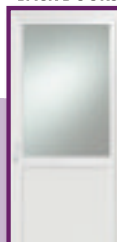
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The scales of justice

Verdicts from magistrates' courts around the county

KARL MCCARTHY, 36, of no fixed abode, admitted stealing alcohol and food worth £148.41 from a Tesco store in Banbury on February 12. Fined £110 and ordered to pay £148.41 in compensation. Also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and £40 costs.

LUKASZ IDZIKOWSKI, 41, of Fairfax Close, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, on January 25. Had 66mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Given an 18-month driving ban and fined £320. Ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £32 and £85 costs.

ALKAN MUSTAFA, 31, of Lennox Gardens, Banbury, admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath when suspected of committing a driving offence in Banbury on January 24. Given a 12-month driving ban and fined £230. Ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £23 and £85 in costs.

SUSAN SMART, 44, of Broome Way, Banbury, admitted possessing a Stanley blade in public in Banbury on January 7. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £15 and £20 costs.

GAVIN BUCKLE, 27, of West Street, Banbury, admitted stealing two DVDs worth £20 from a Matalan store in George Street, Banbury, on

December 16. Also admitted stealing two DVDs worth £19.98 from a Co-op store in Middleton Road, Banbury, on December 10. Also admitted stealing a boxset of Joop men's fragrance worth £20 from a Wilkinson's store in Bridge Street, Banbury, on November 29. Also admitted stealing clothing worth £14.99 belonging to Blue Inc in Bridge Street, Banbury, on January 22. Given a community order to attend drug rehabilitation. Ordered to pay a total of £74.97 in compensation. Also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60 and £85 in costs.

JOSEPH SANTOS, 27, of West Street, Banbury, admitted stealing a boxset of Joop men's fragrance worth £20 from a Wilkinson's store in Bridge Street, Banbury, on November 29. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £15 and £85 costs.

ANDREA SELBY, 31, of Canterbury Close, Banbury, admitted possessing a kitchen knife in public in Bridge Street, Banbury, on January 4. Given an eight-week curfew to be home between 7pm and 7am. Also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60.

KENNETH BOSS, 50, of The Glebe, Hook Norton, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a



dog called Meg by not getting a vet to treat her severe skin condition between January 1 and November 1, 2014. Banned from owning a dog for five years and fined £100. Ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £200.

TINA BOSS, 44, of The Glebe, Hook Norton, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a dog called Meg by not getting a vet to treat her severe skin condition between January 1 and November 1, 2014. Banned from owning a dog for five years and fined £100. Ordered to pay a victims' surcharge

of £20 and costs of £200.

ANDREW GODDARD, 22, of Chetwode, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (a Class-B drug) in North Newington Cricket Pavilion car park on January 11. Fined £100 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and £85 costs.

TRACEY LINES, 49, of Twyford Road, Adderbury, admitted drink-driving in Twyford Road, Adderbury, on January 26. Had 75mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Given a 17-month driving ban and fined £350. Ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £35 and £85 costs.

LEIGH HALLIGAN, 24, of Marlowe Close, Banbury, admitted stealing clothing and baby clothes worth a total of £89.50 from Asda Living in Templars Shopping Centre, Cowley, on October 9. Fined £100 and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

SUSAN MCPHERSON, 45, of Usher Drive, Banbury, admitted stealing £89.50 worth of clothing and baby clothes with Leigh Halligan from Asda Living at Templars Shopping Centre, Cowley, on October 9. Given a community order requiring participation in a Thinking Ahead for Women program for 10 days and given a 12-month supervision requirement.

Also ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

MARIUS PATRICHE, 24, of Fulwell Close, Banbury, admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis when required and suspected of committing a driving offence in Banbury on January 1. Given 17-month driving ban and a four-week curfew. Ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60 and £85 in costs.

MATTHEW ELKINGTON, 34, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted stealing two cushions and a throw worth £39 from a Matalan store in Christchurch Court, Banbury, on August 23. Also admitted failing to surrender to custody at Banbury Magistrates' Court on September 12. Given a nine-month conditional discharge and fined £50. Also ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £35 in costs.

PAUL HOPKINS, 39, of Bridge Street, Banbury, was convicted of carrying an offensive weapon, namely a baseball bat, in a public place, namely Bridge Street, Banbury, on August 17. He was given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months. Also ordered to participate in a Thinking Skills Programme for 12 days and be supervised for 12 months. Ordered to pay a £80 and £250 costs.

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Council has chaos cure

Police close junction after accident and light failure triggers M-way tailbacks

By Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

MORE powers over roads should be devolved to councils so that traffic problems can be dealt with more quickly, a council leader says.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth was commenting after an accident between Bicester and Ardley on the M40 triggered chaos last Friday night.

Vehicles came to a standstill on the southbound side of the motorway and the problems were exacerbated by a traffic light fault at junction 9.

The lights fault caused hour-long delays, made worse by a rush of travellers at the end of schools' half-term.

Mr Hudspeth, who has called on the Government to give the county council more powers, says the situation could have been dealt with faster locally.

The Highways Agency is responsible for most motorways and important trunk A-roads, while most other roads fall under the jurisdiction of local councils.

Mr Hudspeth said: "The Highways Agency does a great job, but in this case if there had been local control then



Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth

there could have been a quicker reaction.

"It comes down again to the arguments for devolving more powers to local authorities."

Engineers were sent to fix the traffic light problem.

But when the congestion failed to ease, police officers switched the lights off and temporarily

ran the junction as a roundabout to clear the blockage.

A spokesman for the Highways Agency said he was unable to comment on last Friday's issues, or how long it took to get police officers in place to solve the problem.

But queues were reported to have stretched down the A34



The traffic at a standstill under the Green Lane Bridge

from its junction with the M40 all the way south to Abingdon.

Later in the day the Highways Agency apologised to drivers.

"We are continuing to work with our suppliers and our partners at Oxfordshire County Council to ensure similar problems do not happen again," said the spokesman.

Talent showcase

BANBURY: Finalists for this year's Banbury's Got Talent competition have now been selected.

Entrants have been whittled down to 11 acts, and will perform at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury on Sunday.

The overall winner will be decided by a vote between three judges, with the audience's preference as a final vote.

For more information and tickets visit themillartscentre.co.uk.

Volunteer appeal

OXON: Barnardo's is searching for volunteers to both support the charity's work with vulnerable children and young people and to help raise awareness of the charity's work and raise cash. The charity has a shop in Parsons Street, Banbury.

Contact 01727 810917 or janet.meredith@barnardos.org.uk.

Offer to artists

NORTH OXON: Resident artists can put forward their own creations to be displayed at an exhibition in Banbury.

Both professional and amateur artists can submit their work to themed on water for the Artsweek event, beginning on Tuesday, April 28.

The Mill Arts Centre in Spice Ball Park, Banbury, will be hosting the event and taking applications between Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 20.

For more information call 01295 227174 or email rachel.cronin@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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Derelict building set to become rail depot

Planning committee approved plans to restore abandoned train centre, creating up to 35 jobs for people in the area



Banbury railway station, close to the old rail hub that Network Rail and Chiltern Railways hope to bring back into use

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

A TRAIN depot in Banbury that has been abandoned since the 1960s will be brought back into use, creating 35 local jobs.

Last Thursday, members of Cherwell District Council's planning committee approved an application by Network Rail and Chiltern Railways for the construction of a light maintenance depot.

The site, located on land north of the River Cherwell and south west of Spital Farm Sewage at Bankside, was first used as a locomotive depot between 1908 and 1966.

Following its closure in 1967, structures on the site were de-

molished, leaving concrete slabs, platforms and remains of steel columns above ground level. It has been derelict ever since.

At Thursday's meeting, Chiltern Railways director Graham Cross said: "As the number of passengers travelling by train continues to grow, we have been acquiring extra trains and will go on to acquire even more."

"Those extra trains need a depot in which to be serviced and maintained so that they are cleaned, fuelled, washed and ready to go."

"We have reached the point now where our existing depots at Aylesbury and Wembley are at maximum capacity and we need to invest in an additional depot."

The new development will include a main building in the centre of the site with two tracks used for light maintenance and refuelling operations.

Four sidings will be located on the northern site boundary for the "stabling" of trains overnight, as well as additional cleaning.

Next to the sidings will be a Network Rail tamping siding for track engineering vehicles.

Overall, the depot will have capacity for 58 rail vehicles.

Staff accommodation, administration and welfare facilities will be located next to the main building.

The new depot will create about 35 jobs for local people.

At the meeting, Colin Clarke said: "It seems to me that the application in front of us is ideal to improve the railway service here in Banbury."

He later added that he was "very pleased" with the approval.

At present some trains are forced to park in sidings nearby. Residents had previously complained about noise created by drivers starting their engines up 30 to 40 minutes before going into the station.

Work is set to begin this summer and is expected to take around 12 months to complete.

Work on 24/7 to clear landslip and reopen line

ENGINEERS have been working round the clock to clear earth at the site of a landslip that has halted rail travel between Banbury and Leamington Spa.

Network Rail this week confirmed 200,000 tonnes of earth had been moved from the site at Harbury Tunnel, and it hoped to reopen the line by Easter.

Some 350,000 tonnes of earth moved during the landslip on January 31. A spokesman said work was continuing 24 hours a day on the site.

Chief executive Mark Carne said: "The line provides a vital link for more than 130 passenger and freight trains every day and our engineers are working tirelessly to make the landslip safe and make it possible to reopen the line within the next six weeks."

He added that permanent solutions were being examined for the cutting, which has been unstable since it was built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in the 1840s.

A smaller landslip occurred on February 14 last year.

Rob Brighthouse, managing director of Chiltern Railways, said: "We are fully supportive of the approach and it is absolutely right the line should only be reopened when it is safe to do so."

The route links Birmingham to London Marylebone, and Birmingham with the south coast. More than 50 freight trains and 19,000 people on 150 passenger trains use the line every day.

Andy Cooper, managing director of CrossCountry, said: "It's good news that Network Rail will have the line reopened for the Easter holiday period."

"This disruption has already affected many thousands of our customers who travel along this line every day and, despite providing a fast connecting road service, this has not been the quality service they were expecting."

Rail replacement buses have operated between Banbury and Leamington Spa since the landslip occurred, and will do until the line reopens. Fares have been halved, but journeys typically are taking 45 minutes longer than usual.

Chiltern Railways continues to offer a 'Banbury fare match', meaning passengers travelling from any West Midlands stations to London pay the Banbury fare to London. But there is no discount on fares to Birmingham.

And while tickets bought before the landslip are accepted on Virgin trains, tickets bought after January 31 are not.



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Club's new social space nears completion date

The club says the 'unique' new area will give them the facilities needed to support their ever-expanding junior section



Tim Rogers and Robert Loxton of Banbury Rugby Club



Work gets under way on the new clubhouse being built at Banbury

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

A NEW clubhouse for Banbury Rugby Club is on track to be finished by the end of the season this May.

Construction began in October at the grounds in Bodicote and is so far progressing well, with

only minor setbacks due to bad weather delaying the completion date.

Club officer Tim Rogers, from Bodicote, said: "We are very short of social space.

"We run a junior section with more than 400 people involved, so we need space, some cover and a number of facilities.

"The new building is unique."

He added the clubhouse was an insulated timber structure reminiscent of Scandinavian or North American design, and would feature a well-stocked bar and fully-fitted kitchen capable of some "fairly serious" catering.

There will also be a large social area, possibly with table tennis tables and strong flooring for community dance classes, and an outside balcony. A glass front will look out on to the pitch.

Mr Rogers said: "The club must be coming up for 90 years old now. It's a big provider of junior

sports in the town and we want to expand into the wider community.

"Out of a squad of 18, 17 players are Banbury born and bred. Many came straight up from the junior section. We're very proud."

For more information on the Club and for events, visit pitchero.com/clubs/banbury/

Spate of oil thefts

OXON: A spate of heating oil thefts across north Oxfordshire in recent months is being investigated by Thames Valley Police.

Officers said there had been 17 offences in the Banbury and Bicester areas since October.

Fuel has been stolen from residents' oil tanks in all the incidents and police are linking the thefts.

The incidents took place in Stratton Audley, Duns Tew, Middleton Stoney, Bicester, Hethe, Deddington, Upper Tadmarton, Bucknell, and Stoke Lyne.

Celebrating history

BANBURY: Shopkeepers are invited to get involved in a spring party set for Saturday, May 2.

The event will promote and celebrate streets that once formed Banbury's main shopping area, including Parson's Street, the Lanes and the Walks.

This year it is being arranged by Banbury Town Council in conjunction with the Old Town Traders' Association.

Traders should contact Banbury Town Council on 01295 250340. You do not need to be a member of the traders' association to take part.

Help out the elderly

OXON: Age UK Oxfordshire is looking for volunteers to help them tackle the growing problem of loneliness among older people.

It needs more volunteers to help visit elderly people or help with their shopping.

It is also keen to hear any ideas for new groups for older people that will provide somewhere for the elderly to go and have fun and meet new people.

Visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/how-you-can-help-us/volunteer-with-age-uk-oxfordshire/.

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Small focus groups will take place during March 2015 in **Banbury, Didcot, Oxford and Witney**, and will be a general discussion with other people in similar circumstances.

- A care professional will be on hand who is specially trained in dementia.
- A £20 M&S voucher will be given to each participant for helping and giving us your time.

If you would like to take part in one of the focus groups, please contact Jo on **01993 323232 by 6 March** to register your interest.



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Union pay offer vote

OXON: The NHS county branch of union Union has voted to urge members to reject a revised pay offer.

Members at a meeting on Wednesday of last week unanimously made the recommendation over the national ballot, to close on March 2.

Strikes were called off last month after the Government upped a one per cent pay offer to a variable offer up to 5.6 per cent.

Spokesman Ian Mckendrick said: "The fact that no new money is being made available speaks volumes about the government's attitude towards NHS."

Ales grab top spots

HOOK NORTON: A local brewery has won international awards for two of its best ales.

Hook Norton brewery's 'Hooky' won a gold medal in the Bottled Ale competition. The "golden and well-balanced beer" will now vie for the International Bottled Ale Championship Trophy. The Cherwell brewers also saw its 'old hooky' beer win a silver medal in the same competition.

Time to go swapping

BANBURY: People can swap unwanted items for something new at a Give or Take event next month.

Banbury Community Action Group is hosting the event at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, from 11am to 1pm, on Saturday, March 7.

All leftover items will be given to charity or stored for future give or take events. Community groups at the event will include Visit Banbury, Freegle Live, Incredible Edible and Cherwell District Council Recycling Team.

Have you got talent

OXON: Talented performers are hoping to be crowned champions of this year's Banbury's Got Talent.

Theatre company Moon on the Stick Productions and The Mill Arts Centre have been searching for the area's hidden stars since November.

And 11 finalists will take centre stage during the grand finale at the centre, in Spiceball Park, on Sunday. The winner, who will be decided by a audience vote, will receive their own show at the centre.

Tickets can be booked at the box office or at themillartscentre.co.uk

Make time for cuppa

BANBURY: Katharine House Hospice is holding its second Care for a Cuppa? fundraiser event next week.

The hospice, in Adderbury, is asking individuals, clubs and businesses to invite family and friends for a coffee morning or afternoon tea, with all funds raised going to Katharine House.

Last year, the first Care for a Cuppa? campaign raised £14,000.

When it first opened in 1991, Katharine House Hospice provided free specialist palliative care for 80 patients. By 2014 the number had increased to 800.

For more information call 01295 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk.

Volunteer appeal

BANBURY: Mental health charity Restore is looking for volunteers to take part in a coaching service for adults recovering from mental health problems.

Restore's Volunteer Employment Coaching project trains volunteers in Banbury to help clients get back on the career ladder.

The project, funded by Sanctuary Housing, is now in its second year.

Jeanne Humber, Restore's director of volunteering and training, said: "We want people to have a wonderful experience with us."

For information, call 01865 455826.

Carer left outraged over plans to cut care budget

Council plans to make cuts of nearly £10m to adult and learning disability services

Luke Sproule
lsroule@nqo.com

THE budget for adult social care will be cut by £9.8 million under county council plans that will see £6.1 million of cuts to learning disability services.

It means the total cut to adult social care by 2017/18 will be about £11 million.

Oxfordshire County Council has 16 support centres in Oxfordshire that offer support to people with learning disabilities and funds teams that work with people to help them live independently.

Local Mencap branch chairman John Hutchinson said he was "outraged" by the cuts. Mr Hutchinson's son Darryl suffers from severe learning difficulties and is looked after by his parents at their home in Abingdon.

The 77-year-old said: "The council said that it only affects two per cent of people in Oxfordshire so it thinks it can

cut the budget and it won't matter. I am outraged by it.

"It is elderly carers who will suffer. The day centre will struggle to continue and the respite care will be reduced, if there's any offered at all.

"People who are elderly, like me, who are still caring for sons and daughters with learning difficulties will have no quality of life left.

"Elderly carers' lives won't be worth living if they do this."

The county council has asked people for their views on its Big Plan, a proposed future strategy for people with learning disabilities.

The Big Plan would see everyone with a learning disability reassessed and given an individual allowance based on their needs.

A further £3.7 million will be cut from other parts of the adult social care budget, with £2 million worth of savings still to be decided on by council bosses.

The county council also aims to save £666,000 by reducing the use of agency staff.

County council spokesman Paul Smith said: "We are having to make savings across all of our services, as are all other councils."



Mencap chairman John Hutchinson, with wife Pauline and son Darryl



The outgoing chief constable, Sara Thornton

Search for police chief starts

OFFICIALS are now looking for a new chief constable to run Thames Valley Police.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has opened the process to replace Sara Thornton.

Ms Thornton announced in December that she would leave the force at the end of March to join the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Farmers receive £37m from EU

FARMERS in Oxfordshire were paid £37.1 million for 2014 in the final year of the European Union's main agricultural scheme, called the Single Payment Scheme.

The money was distributed to 1,619 farmers across the county and represented 2.5 per cent of the total £1.46 billion paid to UK farmers over the same period, according to the Rural Payments Agency, which administers the SPS.

Although the amount paid to Oxfordshire farmers averaged just under £23,000 per farmer, the amounts awarded to individual

farmers varied widely, with the lowest amount being £195 and the highest £640,000, said a spokesman for the RPA.

The £37.1 million given to the Oxfordshire farmers was nine per cent lower than the £40.9 million paid in 2013, and was the lowest amount in the past four years.

The figures represent the claims paid out by January 28, 2015. Farmers could lodge claims from December 2014, and claims can be paid up until March 31. However, the RPA spokesman said it was expected that the vast majority of claims would have been settled by now.

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CASTLES IN THE AIR Curvy, down-to-earth Buckingham female, 47, 5'4", own home and car, enjoys days out, football and the quiet things in life, seeking a relaxed and friendly man, to share true love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815**

MAKE A REAL FRIEND Curvy, friendly and loving Bedford female, 47, 5'5", hard working, enjoys days out and cosy times, would like to meet a tidy and fun-loving man, for caring and happy times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171537 or send a text to 80360**

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COULD IT BE MAGIC? Spiritual and genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, with grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132828**

QUALITY OF LIFE Sunny, loving, and loyal Swindon girl, 48, 5'3", average build, likes dining, cinema, walks and travel, looking to find a tactful and endearing man, for love and an honest future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 13416**

THE PERFECT DAY Bright and caring Swindon female, 49, non smoker, enjoys film, theatre, sport and the gym, searching for a genuine man, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180762 or send a text to 80360**

SEEKING A CONNECTION Kind-hearted, honest, 50 year old Abingdon-On-Thames female, would like to meet a male, for fun, company and to get to know each other. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186892 or send a text to 80360**

COME INTO FOCUS Slim and honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keep fit and all the normal things, simply searching for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and enjoy happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172427**

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360**

YUMMY MUMMY Witney female, 52, would like to meet a yummy man, for romance, love and a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186111 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING TO CHERISH Bright, honest blue-eyed Witney female, 52, 5'2", enjoys zumba, swimming and cycling, now searching for a happy and sociable man, to share happy times and a loving future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186277 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN Sweet, attractive, honest and truthful Aylesbury girl, 52, 5'6", with plenty of interests in life, searching for an energetic, trustworthy man, for friendship, love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653**

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE Friendly and fun Oxfordshire woman, 53, 5'7", enjoys days out, cosy times and more, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Could the right man be out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE Caring, honest and loving, 53 year old Milton Keynes female, would like to meet a nice, friendly man, for meals and possibly more, who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180004 or send a text to 80360**

THE RIGHT STUFF Sincere, slim Bedford woman, 54, 5'3", brunette, enjoys eating out, walks, places of interest and swimming, would like to meet a genuine and considerate male, for love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173512 or send a text to 80360**

OPEN TO OFFERS Reflective, timid and kind Aylesbury female, 55, 5'10", average build and a non smoker, now searching for a tolerant, warm and sincere gent, to share friendship and the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186178 or send a text to 80360**

HONEST AND FAITHFUL 56 year old Chippenham female, 5'2", eyes of blue and fair hair, enjoy country pubs, music and home life. Would like to meet an overall nice guy, who works and is honest, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181326 or send a text to 80360**

MY HAPPY ENDING Down-to-earth Aylesbury female, 57, non smoker, widow, enjoys holidays, days out, socialising and more, searching for a similar man, to share interests, friendship and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177528 or send a text to 80360**

NOT JUST ANYONE Emotional, aware and decent High Wycombe girl, 57, just looking to meet an affable, tender male, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161351**

SOMETHING IN THE AIR Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, loves family time, socialising and places of interest, would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144**

SINCERE FRIENDSHIP Friendly and cuddly, 58 year old Buckingham female, widow, enjoys walks, meals out and drinks out. Would like to meet a sincere male for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137202 or send a text to 80360**

A FRIEND FIRST? Down-to-earth, bubbly, kind and caring, Oxfordshire female, 59, 5'8". Would like to meet a male, 5'11", who is sporty, kind, caring, romantic, loyal, decent and a great sense of humour. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185724 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 5'2", red hair, medium build, love gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeking a genuine man with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360**

IT'S TIME WE MET Cuddly, honest, witty Hemel woman, 60, 5'3", N/A, blonde, likes swimming, theatre and weekends away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, who is similar interests, to share a happy life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360**

JUST GOOD FRIENDS Sincere, genuine and kind-hearted, 60 year old Luton female, would like to meet a non-smoking, gentle, humorous male, with old fashion values. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185745 or send a text to 80360**

SAME WAVELENGTH Warm and sincere Abingdon female, 60, enjoys cycling, boot sales and walking the dog, would like to meet a calm, genuine and honest man, to share loving and happy times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178761**

A BETTER TOMORROW Loving, caring, 60 year old Aylesbury female, would like to meet a tender and caring man, for friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186495 or send a text to 80360**

NEED THAT SPECIAL PERSON Intelligent, attractive and well-dressed Devizes female, 61, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active man, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360**

GETTING GEARED UP Fun, friendly and petite Swindon female, 61, 5'7", brown hair, enjoys home cooking, country walks and nights out, searching for a special, active man, to share and enjoy quality times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178821 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO START AFRESH Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy build, likes cooking, evenings out and all the nice things, now seeking a friendly and faithful man, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 62, 5'6", GSOH, non smoker, enjoys a good social life, darts, music, walks and reading, now searching for that special, non-smoking man, for nights out. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

IN PERFECT HARMONY Independent, kind, caring, honest and loyal, 64 year old Milton Keynes female, enjoys travelling, darts, cooking and eating out. Seeking a loving, caring male for friendship, romance and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186654 or send a text to 80360**

FUTURE HAPPINESS Genuine, kind, 64 year old Pewsey female, 5'7", like music, dancing, socialising with friends and cosy nights in. Would like to meet a kind, honest man to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179068**

THE GOLDEN RULE Fun, open and active Bedford male, 65, enjoys cosy times, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a kind, thoughtful and happy male, for friendship and great times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642**

CHASING DREAMS Quite, polite and easygoing Blechley female, 65, 5'4", with many interests in life, now would like to find a nice, caring chap, of similar age, for nice company and hopefully a future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179624 or send a text to 80360**

MAYBE ROMANCE Blonde Scarlett seeks her Rett, slim, attractive, active, professional, Thame lady, 65, loves dancing, seeks a similar, Christian male, for social occasions, companionship and who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179554 or send a text to 80360**

UP AND AWAY Friendly and honest Aylesbury female, 67, retired, widowed, non smoker, enjoys camping, weekends away and socialising, now searching for a warm and genuine man, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360**

FIRST DATE Energetic, straightforward and lovely Swindon lady, 67, like walking, cinema, TV, films and cosy nights in. Wants to meet an affectionate male, to build a long relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182156 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S GO OUT Kind, caring, honest and fun loving, 67 year old Swindon lady, widow, would like to meet a male to share the good things in life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 183126 or send a text to 80360**

SAY THE WORD Honest and caring, 68 year old female, 5'8", widow, non-smoker, like travelling, would like to meet a caring, kind, non-smoking male to share a happy life together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185869 or send a text to 80360**

COMPANY AND CONVERSATION Kind, faithful and honest Bedfordshire female, 68, would like to meet a tender and caring man, to enjoy evenings out, holidays and general good company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176924**

REASON TO LOVE Smart, youthful lady, #71, sincere, non smoker, enjoys socialising, theatre, bingo and weekend breaks, searching for a happy and honest man for friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180022 or send a text to 80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 73, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046**

Men seeking women

MIK AND MATCH Suitable 35 year old Oxford guy, like running, outdoors, art and music. Searching for an outgoing girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174011**

SUCH A DELIGHT Kind-hearted and active Oxford man, 38, enjoys sport, keep fit, dining and more, would like to meet a sincere, straight-forward female, for company, days out and to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290**

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 39, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, who would like to meet a caring, honest lady, with a good sense of humour, for sharing days, evenings out and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170308**

LET'S SHARE LIFE Independent Aylesbury male, 56, 5'10", grey hair, would like to meet a caring, honest lady, with a good sense of humour, for sharing days, evenings out and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170308**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 57, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

LEARN TO LOVE AGAIN Young and fun, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, with a great sense of humour, enjoys dancing, socialising and more, would like to meet a friendly and genuine woman, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Loyal, supportive, reliable, trustworthy, 58 year old Evesham male, semi-retired, intelligent, interesting, like sport, theatre, music, walking, gardening and historical places. Seeking a female. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185048**

TAKE A LOOK AT ME Green-eyed Oxfordshire Fireman, 42, 5'10", fit, enjoys clubs, nights out, shopping and cosy times, would love to meet a slim, like-minded woman, with no ties, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 183433**

ARE YOU MY KIND? Kind, caring, 43 year old Oxford male, 5'10", slim build, own car, likes meals out, music, the beach, cinema, pubs and travel. Seeking female between 20-40 for long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172910**

SO MUCH TO SHARE Decent-looking Dunstable male, 44, 5'9", red hair, own house, car, business, loves travel, sport and lots more, just looking for a decent, friendly woman, for friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177611 or send a text to 80360**

A NEW DIRECTION Kind, warm-hearted Luton male, 47, 5'10", blue-grey eyes, slim, many interests, would like to meet a sincere, down-to-earth and affectionate lady, to share life, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167264**

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Warm and friendly Oxford male, 47, 5'11", blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness and sport, searching for an affectionate female, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899**

TAKE THIS CHANCE Friendly, music-loving Thame male, 47, enjoys live music, playing guitar and more, now looking to meet a loving and lovable lady, with similar interests, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150863 or send a text to 80360**

FROM THE HEART Stable, dependable and energetic Wantage man, 48, 5'8", non-smoker, enjoys sports and socialising. Would like a date with a sensitive, confident female, 37-47, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182758 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring and down-to-earth Thame male, 48, with plenty of active interests in life, now seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, to share her life with, for friendship and happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7", own home, likes socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, sincere lady, to share friendship, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112107 or send a text to 80360**

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LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, solvent and happy, with a love of cycling, cooking and good walks. Would like to meet a like-minded lady, for meals out and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER Caring, honest, 54 year old Oxford male, good sense of humour, enjoy pubs, eating out and cinema. Seeks a like-minded lady for a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178197**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

LET'S SHARE LIFE Independent Aylesbury male, 56, 5'10", grey hair, would like to meet a caring, honest lady, with a good sense of humour, for sharing days, evenings out and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170308**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 57, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

LEARN TO LOVE AGAIN Young and fun, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, with a great sense of humour, enjoys dancing, socialising and more, would like to meet a friendly and genuine woman, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Loyal, supportive, reliable, trustworthy, 58 year old Evesham male, semi-retired, intelligent, interesting, like sport, theatre, music, walking, gardening and historical places. Seeking a female. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185048**

COME ALIVE Ambitious, unconventional and focused Bampton / Burford / Cartton man, 60, would like to find a protective, committed female, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360**

BY MOONLIGHT Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 60, widowed, own home and car, hard-working, loves days out, drives, walks, the theatre and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 61, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

STARTING OFF RIGHT Slim, happy, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, the country and 60s music, seeking a genuine, loving lady, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360**

STARTING TOGETHER Fit, active Oxford-based Latin male, 63, loves exploring new places and the fun things in life, looking for a special and honest woman, to share happy times, fun and whatever life offers. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

SOUND LIKE YOUR TYPE? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 64, slim, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walks, now seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314**

SEEKING INSPIRATION Warm-hearted, active, gentle and outgoing Luton man, 65, with many interests in life, now looking for a shy, considerate female, for fun times, friendship and plenty of happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151562 or send a text to 80360**

THE FUTURE Loyal, honest and sensible North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", solvent, enjoys soul music, motorsport, classic cars and more, seeking for a charming, feminine lady, for future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180701**

MORE IN TIME Thoughtful, kind, self-employed Witney male, 66, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413**

MISSING SOMEONE SPECIAL Kind-hearted, 66 year old Woodstock male, like field sports, gardening, cycling, cooking and good walks. Would like to meet a like-minded lady, for meals out and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185807 or send a text to 80360**

THAT MAGIC MOMENT Loyal, loving North Oxfordshire male, 68, solvent and happy, with a love of travel, cinema and music, searching for a nice, loyal and feminine lady, to share life's adventures with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Kind, caring and romantic Oxford man, 68, interested in the arts, long walks, music, drama and theatre, would like to meet an active and loving woman, to share life's memories with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150131**

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, retired professional, loves music, theatre and exploring new ideas, seeks an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 69, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285**

START OF A NEW JOURNEY Cheerful, slim, fit Banbury male, 71, ex forces, GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901**

SECURE THE FUTURE Youthful, faithful, liberal Oxford-based 'Teesside gent, 74, enjoys day trips and more, now looking for a sensitive and warm-hearted woman, to share good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502**

DANCE INTO TOMORROW Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 50, non smoker, enjoys pubs, clubs from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

Women seeking men

JUST FRIENDS Sincere, 38 year old Oxford female, like karaoke, music, horror films, comedy, cooking, swimming and spa days. Would like to meet females, 30-50, for friendship, days out, pubs, clubs and shopping. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185889 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 49, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817**

Men seeking men

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 66, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S THE TICKET Easygoing and friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times and socialising, searching for a friendly, active chap, for company, nights out, conversation and lots more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

ENJOY LIFE'S JOURNEY Caring, kind-hearted and sociable Abingdon male, 68, semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for a similar male, to share good times, friendship and the fun things in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 71, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567**

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Hemsworth's latest movie has problems booting up

BLACKHAT

(15, 133 mins)

FOLLOWING the attack on the computer systems of Sony Pictures in November 2014 and subsequent leak of emails, the insidious threat posed by cybercriminals is fresh in everyone's mind.

Director Michael Mann's polished yet soulless action thriller is perfectly timed to tap into this mood of pixelated paranoia, convening a global task force to unmask a madman who wreaks havoc from his computer keyboard.

Aided by digital trickery, Mann visualises the attack as a quick zoom into a computer monitor, careening along wires and circuitry as the flickering white pixels of incoming malware pollutes a sea of good coding.

The sequence is so neat and effective, the four times Oscar-nominated filmmaker uses it twice.

While the film's hardware – direction, cinematography, action sequences – is robust, the software – characterisation, interpersonal relationships, dialogue – desperately needs an upgrade.

The central romance between Thor hunk Chris Hemsworth and pretty Chinese actress Tang Wei is for dramatic necessity because she's the only woman in the film, in fact the whole of Asia, who wouldn't pass for his mother.

An elusive mastermind (Yorick van Wageningen) causes an explosion at a Hong Kong nuclear plant and tampers with the price of soy on Chicago's Mercantile Trade Exchange using a Remote Access Tool (RAT), which gains access to computer systems and allows his malware to run amok.

Chinese military officer Captain Chen Dawai (Leehom Wang) joins forces with his sister Lien (Wei), a gifted network engineer, to unmask the culprit.

It transpires that part of the RAT's coding was written years ago by Dawai and his university roommate Nicholas Hathaway (Hemsworth), who is behind prison bars for computer crime.



Tang Wei, as Chen Lien, and Leehom Wang, as Chen Dawai in *Blackhat*.



Chris Hemsworth, as Nick Hathaway, and Tang Wei, as Chen Lien, in a scene from the film, *Blackhat*.

The Chinese align with FBI Special Agent Carol Barrett (Viola Davis) and she promises Hathaway a commuted sentence if he apprehends the hacker.

The subsequent hunt takes Nicholas, Chen, Lien, Barrett and FBI colleague Mark Jessup (Holt McCallany) around the world, following a trail of clues that could lead them into the gun sights of the hacker's sadistic associate, assassin Elias Kassar (Ritchie Coster).

Taking its title from a hacker who invades systems for personal gain, *Blackhat* struggles to compute.

Hemsworth appears to have strutted straight off the set of *The Avengers*, sporting a ridiculously perfect physique for someone who is now consigned to a prison cell and denied excellent nutrition and access to a gym.

Wei is a non-descript love interest while Davis has only one decent scene of feisty banter to justify her heavyweight casting.

Mann's camera is fixated on the twinkling lights of city locations that provide a pristine backdrop to co-operation between Chinese and American governments.

East meets west but his film goes south.

CakeWhat's on

THEATRE

MONDAY:

New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford: La Fille Mal Gardée – RBS. 7.30pm. This classic ballet conjures up a world of pastoral simplicity where a farm boy woos a flirtatious daughter. £20.40 to £40.40 (plus £4 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.

TUESDAY:
New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford: Swan Lake – RBS. Today and tomorrow. 7.30pm. The greatest romantic ballet of all time is brought to life by Tchaikovsky's haunting and unforgettable score. £20.40 to £40.40 (plus £4 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.

MUSIC

THURSDAY:

Kemble College, Parks Road, Oxford: Kebble College Early Music Festival with an exciting mix of

professional artists and aspiring students. This five-day festival will include delights from Mahan Esfahani and The Marian Consort, as well as a slightly bawdier contribution from madrigal group 'Ye Fyne Dogges,' who will open the festival. See facebook.com/kcemf. £12/£5/Free. 9.30pm. 07867 557174.

Merton College Chapel, Merton Street, Oxford: Organ recital series. Daniel Hyde plays the complete organ works by JS Bach. Free. 1.10pm.

The Queen's College, Chapel, High Street, Oxford: The Eglesfield Musical Society – Hilary Concert. 8.00pm.

FRIDAY:
Shakespeare, Bowmont Sq, Bicester: Pete McCray. Soul and reggae. Free. 9pm. 01869 360040.
The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Oxford Folk Club open night. £2. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

SATURDAY:

SJE Arts, St John the Evangelist Church, 109A Iffley Road, Oxford: Mystical Romance. Ronan Busfield & Amy Tress, both alumni of Oxford University return with a spectacular programme exploring the mystical and romantic works of Szymanowski, Beethoven and Schumann, accompanied by leading pianist Christian Dawson. Tickets: bit.ly/mysticalromance. £19/£15.20/£3.80. 7pm.

The Queen's College, Chapel, High Street, Oxford: The Eglesfield Musical Society – Vocal recital. Molly Gilmartin. Free with a retiring collection. 1.30pm.

The Wheatsheaf, High St, Oxford: Gappy Tooth's 150th event! Dark country rock from Monkfish, Southampton quirkfolk from Ruth Theodore and warm roots pop from local favourites Superloose. £4.50, cheaper in advance. 8.20pm. 01865 395327.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport



Banbury United's Leam Howards scored twice against Dunstable after coming on as a substitute

Sub Leam is double hero

Puritans are off the bottom

SUBSTITUTE Leam Howards bagged a brace as Banbury United moved off the bottom of the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division with their first win for six games at Spencer Stadium on Saturday. The victory put them within five points of safety. It was the introduction of Howards, who scored twice in three minutes that turned the game in the hosts' favour. Banbury broke the deadlock on 75 minutes. Jordan Green found How-

Banbury Utd 2
Dunstable Tn 1

ards who burst forward before shooting low past Charlie May. Two minutes later, Howards doubled the lead with his second goal. Hicham Abdella whipped in a cross which Howards headed into the top corner. Although Tony Burnett pulled one back on 84 minutes, Banbury held on. **Banbury Utd.** Bedwell, Walcott, Martin, Westbrook, Tappin, Ryan, Green, Hartigan, Talabi (Howards 68), Isaac, Abdellah (Browne 89). Subs not used: Cray, D Martin, Lewars. **Attendance:** 242.

LATEST TABLE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION										
Poole Tn	30	22	4	4	62	18	70			
Weymouth	33	21	4	8	60	45	67			
Corby Tn	32	20	6	6	62	33	66			
Truro City	34	20	4	10	65	48	64			
Hungerford Tn	35	17	10	8	50	29	61			
St Neots Tn	34	17	9	8	65	49	60			
Cirencester Tn	34	16	9	9	64	39	57			
Redditch Utd	32	15	8	9	57	35	53			
Chesham Utd	34	13	11	10	59	49	50			
Hitchin Tn	33	14	6	13	57	54	48			
Paulton Rov	33	13	8	12	54	50	47			
Dunstable Tn	35	14	5	16	58	59	47			
Chippenham	34	12	10	12	38	41	46			
Slough Tn	32	11	10	11	48	54	43			
Bideford	32	13	4	15	55	70	43			
Cambridge C	30	8	10	12	47	49	34			
Dorchester Tn	34	10	4	20	50	63	34			
Biggleswade T	31	7	10	14	44	57	31			
Frome Tn	31	8	7	16	33	53	31			
Arlesey Tn	33	8	3	22	32	67	27			
Banbury Utd	32	5	7	20	34	73	22			
*Burnham	33	5	7	21	33	59	19			
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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You're still reeling from something you've heard in recent days but, after the weekend, you'll discover that you are actually far more in control than you thought. News on someone you thought you still held a candle for helps you to realise that you don't. You move on and you start to feel as if life can and should be fun again. About time too! Ring now for an unusual family prediction.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You haven't been feeling as independent as you'd like to and this has a lot to do with how much others have been able to emotionally manipulate you. You're feeling vulnerable because you're saying yes to things you really want to say no to. From Tuesday, Mars gives you back your nerves of steel and you won't be allowing anyone to take you for a fool. Call now to hear which sign brings drama to work.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Family want you to make commitments you'd rather get out of and you may have to tell a white lie in order to live life in the way you want to this week. A great week to look at signing new contracts as you take your career up to the next level. Use your ruling planet Mercury to better understand that older family member who has been so difficult lately. Phone now to preview your destiny.

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CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You've been losing sleep over things which aren't under your control and it's time for you to get back in the driving seat. You think you're not able to make decisions about your career right now, but you're wrong. There's never a better time for you to make drastic moves, and if this means upping sticks and moving, then so be it. Ring now to find out how exciting love can be.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You head towards the end of February with the knowledge that you and a close one understand each other so much better now. No longer are you lightly stepping around issues, but you're facing them head on and as a team. Your ruling planet the Sun brings a fun new flirtation into the mix, which for some of you could change everything. Ring now for courage and confidence in your future.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You've said some things you now regret, and you're still trying to work out how you can get out of a somewhat precarious position. Tell it as it is and say sorry where it's due. Short trips you make to improve an important relationship help you move on from a past mistake. Wear blue for luck in financial meetings. It will cast you as a professional. Ring now, we need to talk about last weekend.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Don't even think about backing out of plans you've made for the week ahead. Close ones have gone to more trouble than you may realise. Time spent going over travel plans for March can help to ensure that all your needs are met. An emotional older figure in your life needs careful handling, especially on Friday. Ring now so I can give you the gift of tact for a deeper reading.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You've mapped out for your life. You see Scorpio, if you do push into matters that don't concern you, then you could end up being blamed for all that went wrong. A younger person, however, does need your advice and guidance so choose your words carefully this weekend. Ring now for a deeper reading.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

The past weighs heavily on your mind and you don't seem to understand how to best move on from all that occurred. Keeping eyes forward is the answer Sagittarius. Nothing can harm you that is not around you, and you have the power to make a new life for yourself and to gain control over what went wrong. Ring now to make this the best year of your life.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Try not to gossip or say things you don't really mean just for effect. You would be far better to say what is in your heart Capricorn, for it's the only way you'll find out if you can get what you desire. Aspects suggest you can and you will, you just need to put as much effort into your own affairs as you have those of others. Ring to hear how gambles in love are worth taking now.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

I know you haven't felt entirely comfortable with all that's been going on in your life, but you haven't spoken up about how you feel. If you give others the impression you don't care, then of course they will choose for you. From Monday, Saturn helps you to see which path will make you happy. Shock decisions make for a bumpy but enjoyable ride. Ring now for a road map.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Too many people have been paying attention to what's going on in your life and the lack of privacy has left you feeling at a disadvantage. Places near water help you find clarity concerning the future and decisions you make from Wednesday shock and surprise many, but give you the pleasure you've been seeking. Ring now to make sense of mixed messages from family.

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in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S

DEAR HEART OF JESUS

in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S

Missing

MISSING CAT

(Maisy Langley) REWARD

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07821 043006



Deaths

KIERNAN Richard Thomas

1942 to 2015

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on Thursday 5 February 2015 aged 72 years. Much loved Husband of the late Jane Kiernan, loving Father to Michelle, Sarah, Claire and Lisa and Grandfather to Alysea, Daisy, Jack, Lily-Jane and Noah.

Funeral Service will take place on Friday 27 February at 1pm, at St Edburg's Church, Bicester. Flowers welcome and should be sent to L Hartness Funeral Directors, 11 Victoria Road, Bicester OX26 6QD.

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